FREE INDIA

35th Year Of Publication ★ May 19, 1974 ★ 20 Paise

RECEIVED
ON 20 MAY 1974

Mr. R. Aminov, Chairman of the collective farm in Hissar Valley, speaks a dialect which resembles Hindi.

The Hindi-Speaking Peasants In The Hissar Valley

(Article & picture on third cover)

SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

Nature Protection

Love of nature, the ways for protecting and increasing the common wealth are cultivated in Soviet children from their infancy.

There are several types of children's nature-protection organisations in the Soviet Union—green patrols, blue patrols, erosion combating units, school forestries. The green patrols unite nearly two million school-children who see to it that forests do not catch fire, build nests for birds, collect forage in summer and autumn, and in winter feed elks, wild-bears, hares, squirrels, roes and other animals.

There are in the country 4,650 blue patrol units. In winter the children make holes in the ice so that the fish may breathe, in spring after high waters they rescue small fish left behind in pits, ditches and gullies.

Erosion-combating units are organised in areas where ravines cause heavy damage to agriculture. The children mark on maps the places where ravines are beginning to form, plant trees on their slopes.

Over 500,000 boys and girls work in school forestries which occupy an area of nearly two million hectares. They plant forests, protect them against fires, collect seeds. If trees are infected by pests they bring in forest "sanitarians", ants. Children carry out useful experimental and practical work in forest nursuries.

(Another picture on third cover)

Right: Observations on life of trees.

Left: Ruslan Stuyopin, a jamboree winner.

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Consumer Protection : Roles Of Government And People

By S. Y. KRISHNASWAMY

THE consumer is the forgotten man of modern economics. Recent economic thinking and practice have been greatly influenced by the concept of growth. The prosperity of the people and the efficiency of the Government are both judged in terms of the increase in the Gross National Product which, it is felt, should have an annual acceleration over the previous year.

This growth is also linked with a national plan for a specific period in which the growth rates desired are targetted for each sector of the economy. The merit of this method of economic planning is that it canalises the nation's resources along with certain priorities in production and prevents haphazard expenditure or unhealthy competition.

Nevertheless, the defects of this type of planning are many. One of them is that it always looks to the future and calls upon the present to sacrifice for the sake of a paradise which is on the horizon all the time and is never at hand. Secondly, the preccoupation with physical growth targets subordinates welfare to wealth as if the production of more wealth is an end in itself. Not that human aspects are completely forgotten, but they unconsciously tend to be given a subordinate place in the planning mind.

NEGLECT OF CONSUMPTION

It is high time that this growth theory and procedures of planning that go with it are subjected to a severe examination and the welfare aspects of planning given greater importance. This is especially necessary in a developing country with a large population in which the distribution of the wealth created as widely as possible amongst the people and the creation of widespread employment are the most vital aspects to be considered.

These two issues, namely employment and the production of wealth by those means which create employment have not been placed in the forefront of planning. The point may well be illustrated by reference to the plan approach to agriculture.

Much emphasis has been placed on the importance of agriculture and the place of the farmer as contributing food for the people and raw material for the industry. Here the farmer is being looked upon as a means to an end and not an end in himself. So much so, practically the whole of agricultural planning is concerned with improving farm techniques and facilities such as better seed, irrigation, the supply of fertilizers and the like.

The emphasis here is on the farm and not the farmer. The object of all this production is to ensure a better life for the person who produces it. The wealth created through land has to benefit the person who produces it. In other words, one has to look upon the farmer not merely as a producer but also as a consumer or to put it differently the wealth from the land should be for the welfare of the farmer. It is this psychological approach that is lacking in our planning.

The instance of agriculture has been given to show the preoccupation with production and the comparative neglect both at the intellectual and practical levels of consumption as an economic factor in the improvement of the conditions of living.

The subject may also be approached in a different way. Every man is overwhelmingly a consumer rather than a producer. A person may produce one or two goods but he is the consumer of the goods produced by everyone else.

Further, why does a person spend time and energy and money in producing a particular article or in employing himself in an institution? The obvious answer is that he does so in order to have a sufficient income which will enable him and his family to live decently and to save and invest for the future.

Here again from the point of view of an individual also it is consumption that is the final objective and not production.

Therefore, from whatever angle one examines the question, man as consumer is more important than man as producer, and yet it is a strange fact that this aspect of economics has received insufficient attention so far. Fortunately, in recent years a trend towards consumerism is making itself felt in some of the advanced countries of the world.

Mr. Ralph Nader started a consumer movement in the United States in a modest way but the movement has gained such importance and support that today it is an economic force in the country and bids fair to rival the trade unions in the pressure that it is able to exert on the producers.

India needs a consumer movement perhaps more than any other country in the world. Indeed one may say the problem of the consumer in this country is a combination of all the problems which afflict one or another country elsewhere.

Amongst these, pointed attention should be drawn to three major defects that are becoming more and more prominent. The first is the rise in prices. The

(Contd. on page 12)

The Railway Strike

1. The threatened strike by the railwaymen at large,
Though at inception, seemed a mirage,
Taken root as a phantom outstretching his arm,
To swallow the land by unending crisis and harm.

2. At a time the country's economy is depressed and bad
Unconcernedly the Railmen launch the strike and make us sad,
More benefits and pay, how are we to give,
While to feed millions poverty striken, we still contrive?

3. Oftentimes you strike work and make the country sore,
And wish the dwindling economy still to perish more,
Behold! Thou hath lost the faith of those who really pay,
And discern the Truth! Thy interest in their hands only lay.

4. The leaders are playing jokes at this hour of peril,
O! Railmen, awake, arise, Don't view it as trivial,
Better late than never, out of their grip come out,
To earn the confidence of Public out and out.

5. Abruptly you stop the train and make us strand,
Fuel, foodgrains, medicines, don't move to reach hand,
O! understand the calamitous chain of reaction,
Do realise, abandon strike, to receive Nation's benediction.

—*S. Arumugham*

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

There is an indefinable mysterious Power that pervades everything. I feel it though I do not see it. It is this unseen Power which makes itself felt and yet defies all proof, because it is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses. It transcends the senses. But it is possible to reason out the existence of God to a l.mited extent.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY May 19, 1974.

FIRMNESS PAYS

The general strike called in support of the striking railwaymen having proved a flop, the opposition parties are in search of some face-saving device for Fernandes and Co.

The only section which responded to the strike call was the well paid employees of Banks, LIC and Food Corporation of India.

It has been proved beyond doubt that the people groaning under high prices are willing to suffer any inconvenience to teach the recalcitrant railmen a lesson.

The Prime Minister is right in refusing to waste her time in parleys with people who are not in a position to advise the labour leaders to withdraw the strike. It must be realised the nation has more confidence in the Prime Minister than in Fernandes and his friends who are out to disrupt the economy.

As the President is reported to have pointed out, the Government must make a distinction between the workers in general and the strike leaders, who might have misled them into a wrong course of action.

The strike is sure to be called off soon. And Government should show no lenience towards workers who resorted to sabotage) as widely reported), indulged in violence and engaged in intimidation of loyal workers. This is more important than "implementing in letter and spirit, all assurances given to the loyal workers, who have, despite odds, stuck to their posts of duty."

IRAN'S OIL FORMULA

Hushang Mehr Ayin explains Iran's policy on export of oil to the devel ping countries and why the nation has chosen the road of bilateral trade ventures and credit facilities instead of offering concessionary prices for crude to countries hardest hit by oil price rises.

WHEN the Indian Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh signed a trade and economic agreement with Iran's Minister of Economy Hushang Ansary last February, the entire world was anxious to know about the terms on which Iran agreed to supply crude oil to India.

At the time, the Indian officials stressed publicly that they did not ask for concessionary prices and that the Iranian crude was sold at prevailing market prices which meant prices set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Iranian officials did not even bother to underline that the price of their crude to India was the same as those charged on other regular customers.

They said that Iran has already ruled out any kind of price discount and that this policy held true in all the agreements on the sale of crude oil.

Yet, the Indians announced on several occasions that the terms for Iranian crude were more favourable than what they had earlier anticipated. The Indian Foreign Minister went as far as to state that the terms were beyond his own expectation.

Now the Shahanshah has decided to throw light on those terms which the Indians have called favourable beyond their expectation. In an interview with the New York Times last week, the Shahanshah said that the Indians would receive crude oil in quantities larger than what they used to get from Iran. This was intended to compensate India's shortfalls due to non-delivery from other sources. They agreed to pay one-third of the oil value in cash and the rest on a deferred basis.

The mechanism for such deferred payment was to provide India with credit facilities on which an interest rate of 2.5 per cent pay year would accrue.

This rate of interest is one-fourth of the current interest rates which international financial agencies charge on development loans. It is one-sixth of the interest rate charged in the Eurodollar market these days.

The Shahanshah's statement has now clarified the Irano-Indian oil arrangement. It underlines Iran's policy that concessional oil prices cannot help the poor countries. Instead, such credit facilities as arranged with India can take care of the developing countries' balance of payments problem.

Since a similar formula will be worked out for the sale of crude oil to other developing countries, such as the Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco and Lesotho, it is possible to say that rather than offer a discount on prices, Iran has opted, to provide extremely favourable credit terms.

Most developing countries, including India, have hailed the Shahanshah's formula as more generous than anything offered by suppliers of other materials.

A great advantage of this formula is its emphasis on continuity. Such credit facilities are offered in trade and economic cooperation agreements Such agreements are for periods of several years, subject to renewal every year.

"The oil-importing countries will be assured of at least one year's secure supplies," topranking Indian official commented on the Tehran formula.

Moreover, the trade and economic cooperation agreements in which the sale of oil on such favourable credit terms is included also provide for joint ventures in a host of other fields.

JOINT VENTURES

"These joint ventures definitely contribute to the development of the oil-importing country's resources." the same official said. "In this way, the buying country will exploit its own natural resources to earn foreign exchange for its oil imports."

In fact, the Irano-Indian agreement provides for joint ventures with a commitment by India to export products from such ventures to Iran. Iran offers markets for India's exports while India, assured of such markets, will be able to plan its resource development projects to meet requirements of its trading partner.

None of these points could have been included in arrangements for concessional prices. Since oil prices are subject to change, concessional arrangements could hardly be effective beyond the payment date of the first shipment.

An important fact, however, is the morality of the whole thing. By proposing a formula for cooperation and credit facilities, Iran is meeting its trading partners among the developing countries on a sound footing. There is no question of offering hand-outs—which is implicit in concessional prices.

Already several prominent leaders in the underdeveloped countries have said that the price discount about which other oil producers have talked amount to little more than hand-outs which would inevitably open the way for domination by the "donor" country.

This assumption gains more credibility in view of the fact the oil exporting countries advocating discount prices for developing nations are in specific "ideological" or political camps.

International politics being what they are, it is obvious that an oil-exporting country in a certain political camp would certainly use its advantage of concessional prices to gain political favours from the importing country.

This has already been tried by some oil-exporting nations; other countries have denounced such practices as political blackmail.

The concessional oil prices could also pave the way to other improper economic practices. Any country which manages to receive oil at a cut price can invite international corporations to invest in its territory and enjoy the advantages of cheap energy.

Then the whole theorgy of trying to end terms of trade unfavourable to the primary exporting countries will collapse because the multinational corporations can offer minor advantages to underdeveloped countries and gain big advantages out of their special cut price oil imports. This explains why the formula of cut prices for the developing countries has failed to find takers.

The Shahanshah has, meanwhile, supplemented the country by country credit arrangements with a much broader formula for establishment of a world fund. Iran's aid plan, which is being discussed in the United Nations, has advantages of being politically neutral and includes not only the oil exporters but also the industrial and the developing nations on its board and policy-making committees.

The proposed fund will take care of the problems of dislocating the international payments system provided all the oil-exporting and industrial countries are fully represented.

Meanwhile, it will uphold the principle of sincere international cooperation without political opportuuism.

"Since March, 1964, in the various United Nations forums we have called on the industrial countries to replace aid with trade," an enonomist from a developing country said in Tehran last month.

"We said so again in the 20th annual meeting of the ECAFE in Tehran in March 1974," be said. "From Tehran that year we went to Geneva to hold the first meeting of the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) where we said the same thing.

"And finally it was in Tehran again that we witnessed the creation of a practical formula to bring to reality the develop-

(Contd. on page 11)

City Train Timings

(During Normal Times)

MADRAS CENTRAL

	Dep.	Arr.
Howrah Janata	8-40	19-15
Tatanagar Exp.	13-35	14-10
Howrah Mail	20-55	5-05
Circars Exp.	22-20	6-40
New Delhi Exp.	8-25	17-45
Hyderabad Exp.	12-50	10-15
Delhi Janata	14-00	15-55
New Delhi-Air-conditioned/Grand Trunk Express*	19-45	10-55
Dadar Express	9-50	17-15
Bombay Janata	13-40	14-05
Bombay Mail	21-50	5-15
Tirupati Exp.	7-15	21-30
Brindavan Exp.	8-10	19-05
Bangalore Exp.	14-25	13-25
Bangalore Mail	21-35	5-40
West Coast Exp.	12-25	14-45
Kerala Express	16-25	9-25
Mangalore Mail	20-20	7-00
Nilagiri Exp.	20-00	7-25
Cochin Mail	19-20	6-10
Gudur Pass.	8-45	22-50
Gudur Pass. (via Arkonam)	—	22-00
Vijayawada Pass.	15-20	12-40
Vijayawada Parcel Passenger	23-45	4-15
Raichur Pass.	9-25	19-55
Tirupati Pass.	17-00	9-45
Bangalore Pass.	6-05	21-00
Jolarpettai Pass.	11-20	14-25
Arkonam Pass.	18-10	—
Olavkot Parcel Passenger	21-25	6-10

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MADRAS EGMORE (MAIN LINE)

Cholan Express	9-50	16-25
VirudunagarJanata	15-20	7-45
Rameswaram Exp.	19-30	8-05
Tiruchi Pass	6-45	
Nagore Fast Pass.	15-55	12-05
Trivandrum Pass.	21-20	5-20
Madurai Parcel Passenger	22-25	4-50
Shencottah Pass.	—	21-15

CHORD LINE)

Trivandrum Exp.	8-10	18 10
Kanyakumari Exp.	18-15	8-35
Trivandrum Mail	19-00	7-15
Pandyan Exp	20-10	6-40
RockFort Express	22-00	5-40
Rameswaram Passenger	11-00	15-50
MADRAS BEACH		9-55
Chingleput Pass.*	17-07	10-40
Kancheepuram Passenger*	17-33	9-55
Kancheepuram Passenger	18-12	9-13

*Will run on all days except on Sundays.

Sunday service will be observed only on Madras Beach-Tambaram Electrified suburban section,

Janata Express—Third Class only.

Even Small Incidents Create Difficulties For Governors

[Speech of Mr. K. K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, at the release function of Dr. D. C. Pavate's book "My Days as Governor" at Bangalore on May 11]

I AM indeed happy that my friend Dr. Pavate could find time to write his reminiscences as Governor of Punjab I have no doubt that the book will be a valuable asset in the library of anybody interested in understanding typically difficult situations, which a Governor is likely to be called upon to handle and which demand mature understanding of the situation, keen insight into the working of the Constitution and deep study of the psychology of the masses and political parties.

When the Constitution was framed, various vicissitudes were contemplated and various remedies were examined, sifted and ultimately decided upon and comprehensive provisions were included in the Constitution, the importance of which was not comprehended for a long time and the suitability of which was not tested because of historical reasons. After we attained freedom, leaders who had all-India fame and name and who were in their own right, leaders of the people, were Chief Ministers of States. Those leaders were very close to the Prime Minister and had worked with him for decades and had established a rapport which was very useful in resolving differences.

UNENVIABLE TASK

In the circumstances then prevailing, therefore, the Governor's importance was neither felt nor was put to trial. When the new leadership came up and new parties started functioning, it was realised that the Governor would be called upon to play a very crucial role not only in resolving differences between the Centre and the States but in providing indubitable remedies in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, to complicated situations which were bound to develop politically in the State itself

It is now universally recognised that a Governor has the unenviable task of being trusted both by the Chief Minister and the Centre. He should not only have the ability and experience but should be able to build up a reputation of integrity and honesty. Once he is able to build up reputation, difficult situations will yield equitable solutions.

This book, with its mastery of details and simplicity of language, provides a panorama of shifting political scenes and changing attitudes, creating complex and highly intricate situations. It is not only the interplay of irreconcilable claims of political parties but the uncertainties which an indecisive population throw up which baffle solutions and tax the abilities of a good statesman-cum-administrator.

CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDIES

The situation in the Punjab that Dr. Pavate was called upon to handle discloses for the first time how the Constitution-makers were wise in prov ding comprehensive but concise constitution l remedies for strengthening the hands of the Governor without in any way either interfering with the free functioning of democratic institutions in the State or hampering the freedom of action of the elected representativ s When the people of the State refuse to give majority to any party, when the unprincipled combination of parties brings about variations in the majority on the floor of the House by either cond tional support or withdrawal of support later on, it requires very cautious but alert mind to see the truth through the cobweb of complicated circumstances, heightened sometimes by inspired criticism in the press or sometimes by uninformed remedies suggested in different quarters.

Dr. Pavate, when he assumed office, carried the impression that the job of a Governor was to run a hotel and entertain guests. He soon realised that it was a trying task. Here was a State which was not run by the party in power at the Centre. Here was a Governor who did not belong to any party. Here was a situation when no party had majority. Two radically opposed parties had decided to unite and run the Government. The period 1967-72 was a period of changing moods and shif ing loyalties not only amongst the political parties but amongst the people of Punjab. What will provide immense satisfaction to a well-wisher of this country is the emergence of an electorate which, though inclined to take changes and sometimes tempted by personal considerations or community affiliations, knows what is in the interests of the country, and reacts so wisely and sharply that even the best brains are not able to judge how it will be swayed. The fortunes of different parties in Punjab are indicative of the extreme wisdom displayed by the people of Punjab.

IDEAL EXAMPLE

The ideal example which Dr. Pavate provided by his scholarship, integrity and ability has been amply rewarded by a grateful people who, inspite of adverse criticism on earlier occasions, candidly acknowledged his valuable services, politically and administratively, and when he retired, gave him the unanimous verdict of being an able, honest and dependable administrator. The way in which he handled the administration of the Government of Punjab during the period of less than 6 months is demonstrative proof to show how an objective and balanced way of dealing with the affairs of States can yield rich dividends.

His mature experience could not help becoming vocal when he says: "The important point is that our national leaders should see that a system is evolved to ensure that employers and labourers both work in national interest without allowing any political parties to take advantage of strikes and lock-outs". His insistence on the Principal of an educational institution taking full responsibility for maintaining law and order inside the college premises and asking for the help of the police only when he is unable to maintain order in serious situation is bound to find responsive echo in the hearts of many educationists.

His objective assessment of I.C.S. being unsuitable to head Education Department and his critical remarks about some of them may not appeal to some. In fact, many of us may disagree with many other points and statements made by him but even his critic will have to admit that they are the observations of an upright, sober and sound administrator and deserve highest respect as they provide food for thought.

HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

One of his significant achievements was the completion of about 1200 miles of approach roads by the end of March 1969. It has to be conceded that it provides demonstrative proof of what marvellous result can be achieved by an able administrator and how servises can be made to respond and put in hard work

His graphic description of what

(Contd. on page 10)

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POLITE REQUEST

It was early spring in Central Park. The tramp was snoring peacefully on a bench. Along came a cop and two painters.

The cop prodded the tramp with his club.

"Hey, you!" he ordered. "Get up off this bench! The men are going to paint it. So if you must sit around here, get over on that bench across the way."

The tramp yawned mightily.

"Okay, pal," he said, sleepily.

"Always glad to oblige an officer of the law."

He stood up and moved slowly to the other bench. He sat down, wrinkled his brow, and suddenly looked up at the policeman.

"Say, officer," he went on, "would you mind doing me a favour?"

The cop scowled.

"What is it?" he grunted.

The tramp inhaled the fragrance of the spring air.

"Please drop in to the nearest post office," he requested, "and notify them of my change of address!"

RETORT COURTEOUS!

A Vicar visiting his parishioners found two of them at the house of the village lawyer, who he considered had not too honest a practice.

As the vicar came in, the lawyer put a very embarrassing question to him.

"Ah, vicar," he said, "these are members of your flock, I believe. Tell me, do you look upon them as black sheep or white?"

The vicar was too sharp to be caught that way.

"I don't know whether they are white sheep or black" he replied with a smile, "but I do know that if they are here long they are pretty sure to be fleeced."

MIND THE STEP!

After a careful and economical life the old couple had fulfilled their great ambition, and completely furnished their front parlour with new things.

One day the old lady missed her husband, and after looking into the kitchen she called out: "Joseph, where are you?"

"In the parlour, resting, my dear," came the reply.

The old lady gave a scream.

"Not on the sofa?" she cried.

"No, dear—on the floor."

She sank into a chair with a gasp.

"Not—not on my beautiful carpet?" she moaned.

"Oh, no, my love," came the comforting reply. "I rolled it up carefully first."

FUN AND LAUGHTER

SEVERAL STEPS REMOVED

"You say, madam," the barrister asked the woman in the witness box, "that the defendant is a sort of relative of yours. Will you please explain to the court the exact relasionship?"

"Well, it's like this," was the reply. "His wife's cousin and my sister married brothers named Jones, who were also own cousins to my mother's aunt. Then his mother married my husband's step-father after his father died, and his brother Joe and my brother Henry married twin sisters. I've never worked it out just how closely we are related, but I've always looked on him as a sort of cousin."

* * *

BY THE R A F.!

The R.A.F. was chuckling over this wartime story of a sentry on an aerodrome somewhere in Britain. 'Halt!" he challenged. "Who goes there?"

"Foe," was the answer.

"Don't be silly!" said the sentry "Go on in."

"But I am a foe. I'm a German airman. I've been shot down and baled out."

"Gosh!" exclaimed the sentry. "You wait here till I find out what to do with you."

* * *

A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

After attacking an enemy ship one of the Allied submarines dived and waited for the depth charges.

One of these exploded near enough to the submarine to make it reel over so far that the alarm bell rang, and some of the lights went out. For a moment there was a dead silence as everyone waited for what might happen next. Then the ship's comedian chipped in with:

"Give the gent a coconut, Bill he's rung the bell!"

* * *

"RETURN, PLEASE"!

To the village came the troops on manoeuvres. Some of them had to act as "enemy."

One soldier so detailed was standing by a gate when from a cottage emerged a sympathetic old dame and offered him an apple.

"And what are you doing here?" she asked.

"Oh, I'm the enemy."

"The enemy? Then give me back that apple."

* * *

DESCRIPTION

The nervous bridegroom was called upon to make a speech at the wedding breakfast.

Putting his hand on his bride's shoulder, he hesitatingly remarked.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this thing has been thrust upon me."

JUST HIS JOB!

Leaning against a field-kitchen, a large and fat regimental cook surveyed the sea of mud caused by several days of heavy rain.

"I dunno," he moaned to his small but energetic assistant. "I wish I was bloomin' well dead!"

"Tha's right, you lump o' laziness," retorted the other. "That'd just suit you, lying in the bottom of a box with nothing to do!"

* * *

SURMISE

The guide had been answering the fussy woman's questions for half an hour, and his patience was exhausted.

"How were these caves formed?" she asked.

"I wasn't alive then, madam,' he replied, 'but the story goes that a Scotsman dropped a sixpence down a rabbit hole."

* * *

A middle-aged woman lost her balance and fell out of a window into an ash can A Chinese happened to pass by, and remarked: "Melicans velly wasteful. That woman good for ten years yet."

* * *

"I said something to my wife three weeks ago, and she hasn't spoken to me since."

Many married men would be glad to know what you said,

* * *

NO IDEA!

Bore: "Talking about Africa makes me think of the time—"

Bored One: "Good gracious, you're quite right. I had no idea it was so late. Good-bye."

* * *

"My neighbour is simply crazy on the subject of germs. She sterilises or filters everything in her house."

We hope her relations with her husband are not strained

* * *

BY DEGREES

Mistress: "Dora, has my husband been very unhappy while I was away for a month?"

Servant: "Well, ma'am, at first he was in fine spirits, but towards the end of the time he got less cheerful, and yesterday he was really sad."

* * *

LAST WORD!

The conversation had turned on the ways of wives.

"Well," said Brown, "when my wife and I have an argument I always have the last word."

"Oh," exclaimed someone. "You do?"

Brown nodded.

"Yes, I apologize."

* * *

Even a welcome guest becomes a bore on the third day.

THAT'S RIGHT

He was a jolly, good-humoured farmer. Nothing could upset him. One day he was sitting on the roof of farm watching the waters of a flood swirl past him.

A gloomy neighbour rowed over to his perch.

"Hallo, Ted!" groaned the nighbour. "All your hens washed away this morning?"

"Yes," replied the farmer cheerfully; "but the ducks can swim, you know."

"Ah, but the apple-trees and all that are gone, aren't they?"

"Yes," admitted Ted; "but the crop would have been a failure, anyway."

"I see," persisted the neighbour, "that the water is over your windows."

"That's right" replied the optimistic farmer, "but they've needed cleaning for weeks."

LITTLE LAUGHS

"Tired of having my excuses rejected, the other night when I expected to be home late I bought my wife a cheap new hat."

She wouldn't wear that, either?

* * *

"It's a funny thing, but whenever I dance with you the dances seem very short."

"They are. My *fiance* is the leader of the orchestra."

* * *

A Negro preacher was hearing confession. In the middle of it he stopped the young sinner.

"Young man." he said, "you ain't confession'–you's braggin."

* * *

Music Publisher wishes investor far immediate exploitation.

—*Advertisemen*

Hardly the right 'note."

* * *

"Turkeys are the proudest birds far prouder than peacocks."

They probably know the prices they will fetch at Christmas

* * *

"My husband is fond of figures."

In ledgers, or bathing-costumes?

* * *

"Is that Peabody, Finchley, Longworth, and Fitzgerald?" came a voice over the telephone.

"Yes, this is Peabody, Finchley, Longworth, and Fitzgerald."

"I want Mr. Smith."

* * *

"Modern entertainment demands a swifter tempo."

Street musicians have to make it snappy, especially when playing to bus queues

* * *

I can always tell when my wife is coming to court to complain about me—it is the only time I see her smile. *Man at police court.*

The joke's on him.

UN University : A New "Think Bank" For The World

By V. V. JOHN

In his "Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System" in 1969, Sir Robert Jackson stated, "For many years I have looked for the 'brain' which guides the policies and operations of the UN development system. The search has been in vain."

Elaborating, he said there is no group, or "Brains Trust", which is constantly monitoring the present operation, learning from experience, uncovering the secrets of science and technology, launching new ideas and methods, challenging established practices, provoking thought inside and outside the system.

Sir Robert need despair no longer. The world body is getting a brain, in the form of a global university, in the next few months. The UN University, to give it its proper name, will consist of a worldwide network of 15 regional research centres staffed by international teams of scholars but will offer no courses, grant no degrees and house no definable student body.

In the words of Dr. Harold Taylor, Chairman of the U. S. Committee for the UN University and one of the earliest supporters of the project, "the university is being established to use organized human wisdom to tackle problems of maintaining peace, preserving the planet's resources and improving the quality of life in world society."

By the end of May, the United Nations will have set the final seal of approval on the programme of establishing the UN University, and by October, the university's headquarters will have started functioning in Tokyo. Although Japan's enthusiasm for the project (reflected in her offer of 100 million dollars towards the 400-million dollar endowment for the new university) is not currently shared by other affluent countries, a UN vote in 1972, and again last December showed that more than a hundred nations supported the idea, and only the Soviet Union and the East European countries have expressed some reservations.

Since the idea of a world university was first proposed in 1969 by the former UN Secretary General, U Thant, it has undergone several changes. The original conception was of an international university with a cental campus and a student body, faculty and curriculam drawn from all over the world. The hope expressed was that "working and living together in an international atmosphere. students from various parts of the world would be better able to understand one another. Even in their formative years, they will be able to break down the barriers among the nations and cultures."

In 1970, Arthur Lall, former head of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, made a preliminary study of Thant's proposal, which eventually formed the basis of detailed planned by the staff of UNESCO, and of the charter that the General Assembly finaly adopted. According to it, the UN University will be governed by a Rector and a 24-member Governing Council of of independent scholars, responsible through the Secretary General to the General Assembly, with a world headquarters and co-ordinating centre for ' a global decentralized network of centres and programmes of research and training."

The university's mission would be "to promote, undertake and stimulate as well as co ordinate advanced research and training focussed on the aspirations, the needs and problems of contemporary society ..problems concerning all mankind, such as human survival, development and human welfare.... It should make provision for education for social change and social responsibility, so as to 'promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Dr. Taylor, after many years as President of the experimental and venturesome Sarah Lawrence College, has latterly been spending most of his time in promoting the idea of innovation in higher education, and in canvassing support for the idea of a world university. He was recently in India aud spoke to many groups about the way the new university could give reality to the concept of a world community of scholars. One is reminded of the more utopian dream that H. G. Wells had, before he finally lapsed into pessimism, of the world's affairs being committed into the hands of the world's scientists.

Dr. Taylor however kept his feet on the ground. He saw the possibility that the regional centres of the UN. University could, owing to the implications of certain research results, become the target of attack by scholars and governments not associated with the research. It is also possible that an individual faculty member, on leave from his own national university or research institute, could be called home and punished if the results of his research roused the antagonism of his government.

But Dr. Taylor thought the structural arrangements are sound, and it must be assumed that the scholars on the Governing Council, who make the policy and carry it out, and the scholars in each of the regional centres, will stand together in support of the intellectual freedom which the university must have if it is to be of any use to the world. "If enough governments were critical enough of the work of the university," he assured, "it could be voted out of existence by the General Assembly."

In the establishment of regional centres and even outside of such centres, the Charter of the UN University provides for new forms of collaboration with existing educational institutions, organizations and groups, and, to quote Taylor, "it will be up to the Governing Council and the Rector in the first stages to make so brilliant a beginning that the whole world will wish to join and volunteers of all kinds will be knocking at the door."

In this connection, Dr. Taylor mentioned the possibility of selecting one of the leading Indian universities as a centte for programmes of the UN University. He also hoped that China, which has consistently voted for the project in the UN Assembly, will make it possible for "Chinese educational thinking (to flow) into the stream of thought now flowing into the conception of the world university."

Summing up, Dr. Taylor said that despite the increasing defiance by member-states of the recommendations of the Security Council and the General Assembly, there is a form of power that is being developed by the United Nations as an institution, and that consists in its capacity for educating the world about the nature of its problems. As an educational instrument, it has not yet been able to penetrate the national educational systems, primarily because "the only route from the UN to the citizens in most countries is by way of their national governments." The UN University may provide a more effective and unimpeded route.

Applying the words that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi used at the plenary session of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, one could claim that the UN University is "a fresh expression of the spirit which created the Uuited Nations."

Dear God, Let My Country Awake!

1. In the Pursuit of Progress
Let my country awake
And pass through the strains and stresses
Dear God, while we plead, don't forsake.

2. Let my country be in one brotherhood
One Law, One purpose, One mankind
One Reason, One faith, blessings good
One life, one love, God make all hearts kind.

3. No resentment, no greed, no hate
Nothing to make us desolate
No race, no colour, no creed or caste
O, my country then you'll be great.

4. Let all the dreamy past fade soon
Let us all learn one truth
That all life on earth is One
And life! Ah! Only a times breath.

5. Teach us to keep in front of us
Kindness and gentleness as living things
Then will the peace be ready bless
And make us simple true joyful kings

6. Let world's wide nations resound
There's peace in air, sea, hills and sand
In the land Buddha and Gandhi found
The warm rays of life from the Divine hands

—By Dr. E. GILBERT

BE OFF!

In a small Scottish town air-raid wardens went round the churches, quietly advising ministers to dismiss the congregations. But in the case of one, zeal overcame patience. He opened a church door and shouted at the top of his voice: "Get to Hades out of here, the whole darned lot of ye."

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Tit-Bits On Men And Matters

By T. NEELAKANTAN

(General Knowledge Agency)

PANDIT NEHRU AND JAYA PRAKASH

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was a good friend of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan. Whenever Shri Jayaprakash wrote to Pandit Nehru, he used, to address him as "My dear Bhai". When Nehruji was the Prime Minister, Shri Narayan once wrote a letter to him addressing him as "My dear Prime Minister". Nehruji did not like this and so he wrote to Shri Narayan that he was Prime Minister to the millions of people in the country but a brother to Jayaprakash. Shri Jayaprakash was greatly touched by Nehru's affection towards him and regretted very much for having written so.

MAYORS OF REPUTE

Many of our leaders, in their earlier days, took active part in the municipal administration of their respective towns. Men like Sir Phirozeshah Mehta and Shri Vithalbhai Patel served as the Mayor of Bombay, Desabandhu C. R. Das Shri J. M. Sen Gupta and Shri Subhas Chandra Bose as the Mayors of Calcutta, Sir P. Thiagaraya Chetty, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and Shri S. Satyamurthi as the Mayors of Madras. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru served as the chairman of the Allahabad Municipal Council, Babu Rajendra Prasad as the Chairman of the Patna Municipal Council, Sardar Vallabhai Patel as the Chairman of the Ahmedabad Municipal Council, Shri C. Rajagopalachari as the Chairman of the Salem Municipal Council and Periyar E. V. Ramaswami as the Chairman of the Erode Municipal Council. As Mayors and Chairmen, they all did very good service to the people.

STATUARY HALL

In Washington, there is a famous building known as the Capitol. In this building, there is a hall by name the Statuary Hall. Each State of the United States of America has placed the statues of two of its very prominent citizens in this hall. The prominent citizens of each State, whose statues have been placed in this hall, are regarded as the National Heroes of America. It will be good, if there is such a hall in every country, so that the younger generation may know more about their eminent countrymen.

One World feeling is slowly gaining ground. Many are talking about the Universal Brotherhood, these days. This is a very good sign and this kind of thinking and feeling should develop for the well-being of mankind.

Every nation has produced eminent persons. The people of other nations should know about them and honour them. It will therefore be helpful, if in a suitable place in a suitable country, a very big hall with architectural beauty and grandeur is built. This hall may be named as the Hall of Famous World Citizens. In this hall, life-like statues of selected eminent men and women of every country may be placed, with suitable inscriptions, so that the people belonging to different countries may know of the good and great persons of the world. Such a task can be undertaken either by the UNESCO or any other international organisation.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Science should help in promoting the happiness of man and in increasing his prosperity but not in the destruction of life and property. Religion should broaden the out look of man and help in the development of humanfellowship Speaking on Science and Religion, Mr. Albert Einstein once said :-' Science without Religion is lame; Religion without Science is blind." What is in demand now is a scientific religion and a religious science.

GANDHIJI AND SPINNING

It was Gandhiji's practice to spin for an hour or so every day at a particular time. If on account of other important engagements he was not able to spin at that particular time, he would do it at any other time, in the course of the day. One day, till late in the night he found no time to spin and he was tired too, on account of heavy work. Still, he asked for the spinning wheal. When an ashramite requested him to for go spinning that day, as it was too late and as he was too tired, Gandhiji replied :-"How can I. I did not miss my supper today". So saying, he began to spin. Gandhiji insisted that one should do his duties, in spite of certain inconveniences.

AMERICA'S SEVENTH FLEET

Even though, Air Force has acquired importance these days, still Navy has its own place in military operations In the American Navy, there is a fleet by name the Seventh Fleet. In this fleet, there are 130 war ships. On these war ships, there are 650 war planes and many sub-marines with atomic weapons. 65,000 people are employed in this fleet and they do their duties with sincerity and efficiency, in their respective posts. This fleet, is therefore a much dreaded one, among the fleets of the world.

Ghalib : A Poet Of The Universe

By RAGHUPATI SAHAY
"Firaq Gorakhpuri"

IN the galaxy of Urdu poets, Ghalib stands out as the greatest figure. He was truly a poet of the universe.

Indolent readers of his poetry blame him for the obscurity of his writings. It is true that the aristocracy of his temperament often led him to rich and varied expressions And, moreover, his poetry belongs to what, according to Hegel's classification, may be called the philosophical stage of art, the stage where thought becomes too strong for form, and where expression is smothered by surmise.

VIGOROUS INTELLECT

Ghalib's vigorous intellect and keen insight explored the cobwebs of existence in all their subtle ramifications until he could "see into the life of things". This mystical experience he utters with the brevity and abruptness of a conviction. Terse rather than obscure is the word for it. His poetry is thought-packed, "fancies that broke through language and escaped".

Then, again, there is the suggestive nature of his poetry. He strikes the keynote and leaves the reader to make out the melody. He does not play for passive listeners. Poetry of the sort that Ghalib wrote demands the utmost mental exertion of the reader.

But when one gets into his style then what seemed troubled and obscure at first turns out to be simple and true—ringing with rare imagination and profound thought.

PHILOSOPHICAL POET

Ghalib is pre-eminently a philosophical poet. In a way we may compare him to Browning Browning's genius lies in what Saintsbury called the "dissection ' of a soul.

Ghalib's genius does not so much dissect as probe into the mystery of life. He sees truth by flashes. His poetry does not consist of longdrawn reflections and sustained thinking, but of sudden, yet sure, revelations of mystic glimpses. He is a metaphysical Browning.

Ghalib, however, differs from Browning in that he has none of the latter's ruggedness. He had the keen intellect of a philosopher, the transcendental vision of a mystic, and the exquisite expression of an artist

His art is truly superb and yet superbly true. There is a depth of insight and a witchery of expression about his poetry which raises it far above dull dialecticism. Here is a couplet :

> Not to see the river in the drop, and the whole in the part, is no play like children with the sight and not to have the seeing eye.

LIFE FORCE

The following couplet seems to be an anticipation of Bergson's vitalism, according to which the life force is ever expressing itself through matter.

> The efficient and the spiritual cannot manifest itself except through the gross and the material. The varied colours of the flowers and leaves in the garden are the thick encrustation on the glass of the spirit of spring.

When a glass has a thick coating on one side, then alone does its other side reflect the images like a mirror. Ghalib sees in the gay and bright colours of flowers and leaves the crust that enables the ethereal and otherwise invisible spirit of spring to reflect itself in and through them

We may see here that like Shelley, Ghalib too saw a correspondence between the material and the spiritual.

GOD AND PARADISE

But though these phenomena are a manifestation of the life force, they are not the life force itself. As Bergson says, the life force is immanent in the forms and yet transcends them. And says Ghalib :

> We look upon everything as God and very easily imagine that we see God in everything. But God is beyond all comprehension. And our case is like that of the people who imagine themselves awake in their dream. Whereas the fact is that they are still fast asleep.

According to Ghalib, then, beyond the realm of the senses where mysticism regards all phenomena as the touch of the divine spirit lies the vast ocean of nescience.

The true mystic does not stop short at the threshold of the senses, or the bank and shoal of knowledge; he hears "the mighty waters rolling ever-more."

Ghalib himself bowed only before this absolute being, the unmoved mover of all things, the unknown source of all knowledge. He says :

> He whom I worship lives beyond the bounds of comprehension To the seeing eye the temple of worship is only a symbol of the real temple.
>
> I am a worshipper of the One God, my religion is the renunciation of creeds. When the creeds cease, they become ingredients of true faith.

GOAL OF WORSHIP

The pleasure-garden view of paradise he most vehemently repudiates. He has no patience with such demoralising view of religion which suggests that the goal of worship and good conduct is gratification of the senses. In his impatience he cries out :

> True worship is not drawn by the thought of wine or honey. Hurl down such paradise into the hell.

"See deep enough and you see musically", says Carlyle. How

(Contd. on page 7)

From page 6

Galib : A Poet of...

beautifully has Ghalib expressed the same idea:

> Th ugh thyself are not aware of the myst·rious melody of the universe: otherwise the veil is like the veil of a violin, every silent string is vibrating with rhythm and harmony.

Ghalib believed that the supreme misfortune, the real tragedy of life, is individual self-consciousness, because it sunders the individual from the cosmic consciousness. Far happier he would have been, he says, in a vein of touching pathos, if he had not been torn away from his god and caught up in the trammels of narrow individuality. He complains:

> When there was nothing there was God—and had there been nothing God would still have been. I have been ruined and made miserable simply by having been (a separate individuality), where was the harm if I had not existed at all?

This is mystical or monistic absolutism. It reminds one of Schopenhauer's central idea.

HUMAN LIFE AND DESTINY

We may now turn to hear what Ghalib has to say on human life and human destiny. It goes without saying that the thousand and one attachments and affections of life, its pomp and circumstance, its joys and its vexations, would count little to mystic so uncompromisingly transcendental. The serene calm of the mystic speaks through the following couplet:

> **In a state of dream my imagination was doing business with thee (the world). When my eyes were opened I found that I had neither any losses nor any gains. The petty values of the world are thus easily dismissed.**

Not only are worldly endeavours which so potently drive men to "go in for the six pence" mere dreams. They even carry within themselves the germs of their own destruction. Ghalib knew it and wrote:

> **The threads of ruin have been woven into the very fibres of my being. The beated blood of the toiling peasant (which apparently would bring him good drops) is the essence of the impending lightning stroke which will destroy the harvest Thus, worldly success carries the seeds or its failure.**

TRADITIONAL PHRASEOLOGY

But if all men were to look at life as unreal and shadowy there will be an end of the world. Some delusion is necessary for the world-drama to go on without losing the charm of apparent reality.

The unceasing desire for self-gratification, the enlighten·d self-interest of each individual, supplies this delusion—Ghalib has expressed it in a difficult paradox which recalls that of Kabir. He says:

> The world remains full because there are no men of true courage. The wine-filled cups and jars simply mean that the tavern is empty.

Adopting traditional phraseology, Ghalib compares the world to a tavern; the unused wine-filled cups and jars indicating renunciation of the temptations of life by men of courage. And just as the wine-filled cups in the tavern mean that it has not been frequented by men and hence lies desolate, so, the presence of courageous men will mean the end of all getting and spending because nothing will induce them to pursue the desire of life

Hence, it is only shallow men who are ever hankering after self-interest that keeps the world going and full of bustle. But to the mystic the heart is a cup, divine love is the wine that sparkles in that cup, and the mind a silent tavern.

PAIN AND SORROW

But though Ghalib considered life as vain and unworthy of the attention of serious-minded people, yet he was most sensible to the painfulness of life and to the strings of its sorrows.

Something of the pessimism of the cold mountainous countries in which his ancestors were born had been transmitted to him through blood. Add to this his life-long adversity, the stings and arrows of an outrageous fortune that he had borne, the troubled state of the times in which he lived when Delhi had become but the ghost of its former grandeur.

It was said of Dante, "This man had seen hell." The pathos of Ghalib's poetry reminds us of such a one. The intense pathos of life the heartrending anguish of helpless suffering, the blank bewilderment of unbearable misfortune, the pain of consciousness, in short life for him was a sad funeral procession with the laughter of the gods in the background.

All this finds an echo in Ghalib's poetry and raises it to a pitch of high pathos for a parallel of which we should go to that intense heart-cry of a soul in agony which we hear in Dante's picture of hell.

TRAGIC EMOTION

Ghalib feels that for man the only em tion is the tragic emotion; there is but one season the season of sorrow; that time does not move but revolves round a centre of pain. He says:

> Yes sorrow is heartrending, but how can I escape it so long as I have a heart? If I did not suffer from the stings of love there would be the stings of other misfortunes.

> The bond of existence and the bond of sorrow are in reality the same. How can man become free from the fitful fever of life before he dies?

> Ghalib! how can anything except death care the pain of life? The candle has to burn on anyhow till the dawn.

Telemedicine : Diagnosing Illness At A Distance

By WALTER FROEHLICH

On April 8,1968, a patient with an aching knee limped into the medical station at Logan Airport, Boston, Massachusetts, unaware that within a few minutes he would become a part of medical history.

The station had been established in 1963 by the Massachusetts General Hospital 2-7 miles (4-3 kilometres) away. Hospital physicians worked at the station during airport peak passenger hours. The rest of the time specially trained nurses, called nurse clinicians, staffed it.

As a nurse clinician examined the ailing knee, Dr. Kenneth T. Bird, an internal medicine specialist at the hospital, phoned to find out—as he did each day after completing his hospital rounds—whether he was needed at the station.

As the nurse described the patient's condition, Dr. Bird decided to try out some new machinery installed at the station but not yet used. He had the patient put in a small room equipped with television camera and receiver and some related electronic devices. The nurse turned on the equipment and the doctor turned on similar equipment at the hospital.

Instantly, his picture flashed on the TV screen in front of the patient, and the patient's image appeared on Dr. Bird's screen.

Then the patient and Dr. Bird talked about the knee problem. As they did, the nurse swiveled the camera to show Dr. Bird close-ups of the knee in various positions.

From this examination, Dr. Bird made his diagnosis: acute traumatic bursitis. He discussed the recommended treatment with the patient Using a telewriter a device that permits handwriting to be transmitted over telephone lines and to be reproduced instantaneously with a mechanical arm—Dr. Bird entered a summary of the transactions on the station's records.

Just before the patient left, he said: Doctor, it's just as if you were here. And before the day ended, the doctor treated another patient at the medical station via television.

This was the world's first experience with "telediagnosis"-diagnosis at a distance.

Since then the system has demonstrated hundreds of times that it can bring patients and physicians together with advantages for both and for the community. The technique may be useful ultimately in other parts of the world.

The ability to conduct such examinations has already been demonstrated in Massachusetts and at other centres. Through electronic equipment plugged into conventional radio and telephone links, specialists can listen to the heart and breath sounds when the nurse clinician holds a stethescope to the chest of a patient at a telediagnosis station.

On the TV screen, specialists can view X-ray pictures to detect fractures and abnormalities caused by disease. Other specialists can analyse the tracings from an electrocardiograph, a machine that records the electrical activities of the heart.

Such extensions of the original telediagnosis set-up have led to "telemedicine"—a broad concept which could bring the newest technical advances in health care quickly and conveniently to nearly every place on the earth.

The irregular distribution of physicians and health care facilities throughout the world was one of the chief concerns of the originators of the telemedicine idea.

—They wanted to eliminate unnecessary travel for patient and physician: Telemedicine would bring the skill of a physician where the patient needs it even though the two may be far apart.

—They wanted to speed attention to patients in emergencies: Telemedicine would offer service at the speed of light.

They wanted to preserve the privacy of the physician-patient relationship: Telemedi-

(Contd. on page 11)

New Medical Product For Incontinence

A Minnesota firm is marketing medical products for the treatment of urinary and fecal incontinence. Among the products is a bladder pacemaker which enables the patient to empty his bladder at will.

The Mentor Bladder Pacemaker is an implantable electronic device. Bipolar electrodes are attached to the bladder and coupled to a subcutaneous pacemaker. When the patient wishes to void, electrical impulses generated by the pacemaker are conducted through the muscle that produces bladder contraction and evacuation. The patient activates the implanted pacemaker to induce voiding by means of an external hand-held transmitter unit. No batteries are implanted, thus the pacemaker does not require periodic replacement.

The company has also designed effective implantable devices for the treatment of both urinary and fecal incontinence. The Uristat Pelvic Floor Pacer is a two-part system consisting of an external transmitter and an implanted receiver with two electrodes. A stimulator restores continence by increasing tone in the pelvic floor muscles. The Continaid Incontinence Controller applies a continuous low-level electrical stimulus to the pelvic floor. The rectal electrode is connected to a small battery-powered control unit which is worn on the waistline or in a pocket.

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

PROTOCOL ON SOVIET-INDIAN COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE SIGNED...

A protocol on Scientific-technological cooperation between India and the USSR in agricultural production was signed in Moscow last week by Mr. T. P. Singh, Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Boris Runov, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the USSR. This envisages considerable strengthening and deepening of the muturally beneficial cooperation between Indian and Soviet scientists and specialists. This will also promote further growth of the key branches of agriculture. Above all, the number of problems to be worked out jointly increases noticeably. They now cover the study and perfection of the cultivation of not only crops traditional for both countries, but also new crops, separately for either of the countries, such as sugar-beet, potato of drought-proof varieties, with a short period of dormancy forage crops and fodder grain that can grow in hot dry climate and other crops.

Over 20 Indian scientists and specialists who are to visit the Soviet Union in 1974-75 will familiarise themselves with comprehensive mechanisation of rice cultivation, selection and seed-growing of famous north-Caucasian varieties of sun-flower, a crop very much promising for India. They will also study advanced Soviet techniques in cultivation of sugar-beet with high sugar content, cotton cultivation and livestock breeding.

Soviet scientists and specialists, in turn, will visit India to study selection and seed-growing of short-term wheat and to collect samples of wild and cultivated varieties of cotton, resistant to the dangerous disease—wilt. They will also study cultivation of potato of drought-resistant Indian varieties which are also disease-resistant and can grow in the southern parts of the USSR in the warm season of the year. Soviet experts in cattle-breeding are interested in horned stock and buffalos, well adapted to hot climate.

Signing the protocol Mr. T. P. Singh said, "the Soviet-Indian Cooperation is useful and mutually-beneficial; for instance, with the help of the Soviet Union we have succeeded in increasing the area under cultivation of sunflower of Soviet varieties up to 250,000 hectares; the valuable crop which will help us make up for the deficit in vegetable oils, was included into the programme of cultivation of most of the states in India."

* * *

PEKING'S ASPIRATIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA..

TASS Commentator Sergei Kulik has highlighted Peking's aspirations in the Indian Ocean area. "Over the recent years", he says, "China has been considering the Indian Ocean and the Western part of the Pacific as areas in which it should make its presence felt. Things have gone so far that plans are being made now to send Chinese war ships to the Arabian Sea. A France Presse Correspondent reports from Peking that China shows interest in the construction of nuclear submarines, while the London DAILY TELEGRAPH writes that the Chinese navy will be widened and strengthened to fill the vacuum of forces that will form in the western part of the Pacific after the expected withdrawal of the US armed forces from Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan in the next few years".

"All this shows," the Commentator continues "that Peking on purpose heightens tensions in the area, playing into the hands of imperialist circles of the West. And this happens at the time when due to relaxation in international tensions the conditions for normalising the situation are being created in Asia for the first time over many years.

"Thus, resorting to anti-Soviet attacks as a manoeuvere to distract the attention, Peking intensifies its military presence in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Such a policy follows the purposes that go against the expectations of the Asian and African peoples, contradict the struggle of the developing countries of the area for durable peace."

* * *

UNDERGROUND "STOREYS"...

Extensive vacant plots will appear in the near future within the present boundaries of the Soviet capital, though this will not call for the pulling down of any building.

Specialists at the Moscow Master Plan Research and Designing Institute are developing the scheme of the most rational utilization of the city territory. Already now a number of municipal objects and structures are being moved to the City's underground space. Underground railway lines and other transport arteries, pedestrian crossings and various engineering communications are being laid there. The scale of "downward" construction is grow considerably in the future.

In addition to the transport and engineering facilities, a number of book depositories, storages, archives, exhibition halls and motion picture theatres will be moved underground. Garages, parking lots, electric and pumping substations and the premises of other auxiliary services will be arranged underground, too.

Underground "storeys" will be "erected" also in the areas which are to be taken up by major residential districts.

Preliminary estimates show that the engineering development of underground transport facilities will vacate in Moscow many hundred hectares of valuable city territory for the construction of housing, parks and squares and will play a positive role in further improving the air basin and everyday life of Muscovites.

* * *

A SEA OF WATER UNDER A SEA OF SAND...

The Kyzyl-Kum Desert is rich in fresh water! This was the conclusion arrived at by Uzbekistan's geologists after a study of the reports made by prospecting parties in the desert.

It turned out that the wells and drill holes scattered over the vast territory in between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers are fed from five large deposits which altogether contain 250,000 million cubic metres of water. They occupy a territory of 70,000 sq. km. and are located at a small depth beneath the sand. More han 2,700 litres of water can be obtained from these under ground pools every second. Zarafshan, a city that has sprung in the desert gets water from a well yielding some 50 litres per second.

The scientists' conclusions make it possible to drop the idea of building costly canals from Amu Darya into the desert, and to obtain water for enterprises in the desert from underground pools.

— —

Scepticism Quotient

A recent opinion poll in Israel has alarmed government quarters, According to the U. S. "NEWSWEEK" magazine, it has shown that 62 per cent of those questioned have "little or no confidence" in what their government tells them. In some groups the "scepticism quotient" is even higher than that, reaching 75 per cent among professionals and administrators and 76 per cent of the college-trained.

A Soviet View On The Pill

Soviet Doctors are extremely wary of the pill One has to be very careful of hormones, especially synthetic ones.

The pill causes complex hormonal readjustments in the woman's system which leads to artificial sterility which lasts while she is taking the pill.

When she stops, the suppressed endocrine glands function with greater activity, creating favourable conditions for conception. We use this effect for treating certain forms of sterility.

We have not yet amassed sufficient evidence to assess the changes in the system when it has been under the influence of the pill for a long time. It is alarming that such pills are often taken by young women who have not yet borne children. We do not know how these hormones will affect their health and that of their children. Experts point out that many women on the pill lose or gain weight. It is even thought that they may develop thrombosis.

Some doctors, too, link the pill with disorders of the breast.

Summing up, we prescribe hormonal preparations only when they are indicated for a medical treatment, to be taken for a limited period.—*Kiryushenkov*.

—

A Fool Proof Identification System

The geometry of a person's hand is almost as unique as his finger-prints. In fact, the Standard Research Institute in California showed that the measurements of each human hand are so specific that the chances of duplicating palmar characteristics are about one in a thousand.

Now a security gadget is on the market that takes advantage of this unique characteristic. Called the identimat 2,000, the black box is now being used by a number of banks and security brokers in United States, Europe, South Africa and South America as well as retailers who want to check on when their employees arrive at work and leave.

Identimat works like this: Each member of a firm is issued a plastic identification card with a code on it that spells out the geometry of his hand. In order to gain access to a restricted area, the cardholder must slip his card into a slot and then place his hand on a measuring platform. The Identimat then measures the geometry of the hand and compares it with the coded information on the card—in three seconds. If comparisons are identical, the door opens; if not, an alarm goes off. Identimat can be connected to a time clock and used to transmit collected data for storage of a magnetic tape thus eliminating many payroll processing headaches.

Comments By Vishnu

ON GETTING THE LORD'S DARSHAN

Three holy men who came to have a darshan of the Lord were refused permission to enter the temple. Greatly dejected they decided to perform a great yagna. The holy fires were lit and there was much incantation and fervent prayers seeking the Lord to grant them an audience. On the third day a big imported limousine turned up and a renowned cine-actor got out. The gates flew open and he was recieved with full temple honours and without further ado taken right into the sanctum sanctorum where he had an audience with the Lord to his heart's desire. "Wouldn't it be possible to have this idol shifted to my house?" he asked the priests. "You'll be adequately recompensed, financially I mean" and the priests nodded their eager assent. The holy men having observed all this shaved off their long beards but not their side burns and rushed off to seek film roles so that they too could become heroes and then get to see the Lord However at the studios it was politely pointed out to them that their best chance of obtaining a film part was to come through the film institute after getting a diploma. Then they were told that to get an admission into the film institute they would have to come with the recommendation of a leader and that little would be gained by going to see him empty handed. One of them then suggested "Let's rob the temple Hundi to help get us an admission for after all our final objective is only to gain an audience with the Lord."

So it is obvious that the way to the Lord is full of stumbling blocks that have to be cleared one by one.

Grasping an Opportunity

Despite the power cut the pumps were working at full swing emptying the swimming pool besides which film shooting was going on. The heroine stood wrapped up in a bath towel On enquiry it was learnt that the censors had reluctantly permitted a shot of her entering the pool in the nude.

Economy Drive

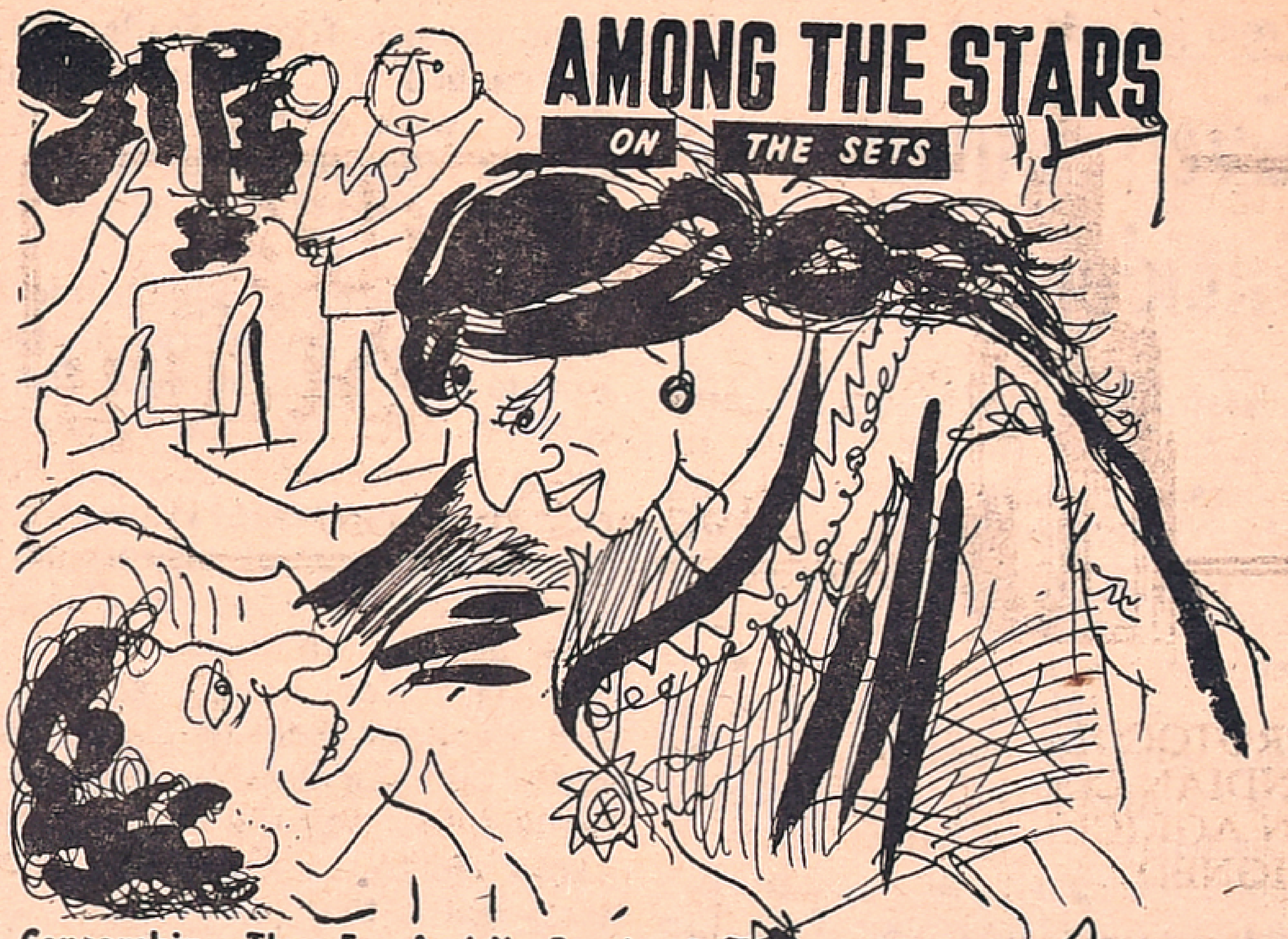
A young lad went up to his favourite actress and requested her for her autograph. To save using up her own ink she borrowed his pen which leaked its ink all over her expensive dress. She resolved that in future all her autographs would be given by her secretary. This was a sound decision because it was doubtful whether she could have written out her name anyway because she was one of those heroines who hadn't come through the fillim institute which is demanding in its educational qualifications for entry.

Safe Shots

An actress was horrified when the hero took out his pistol and fired six pellets into her. Before she could recover her breath he reassured her "Don't worry, what I've fired are contraceptive pellets. They are fully approved by the authorities..."

Putting the Youngster In the Way

A youthful film journalist sat depressed beneath a shady tree when he was accosted by a senior man who had been for many decades in the profession. "What ails you" asked the senior "that you look so gloomy?". The youngster replied "I have been trying to get an interview with that actress Pushpamalli, who although so low in the field has such a bloated opinion of her own worth as a screen star. I've made countless appointments with her secretary but each time I go I am told that either she is out or she is not well or she is having a bath or she is otherwise busy. I've been trying unsuccessfully to get an interview with her for the last three weeks."

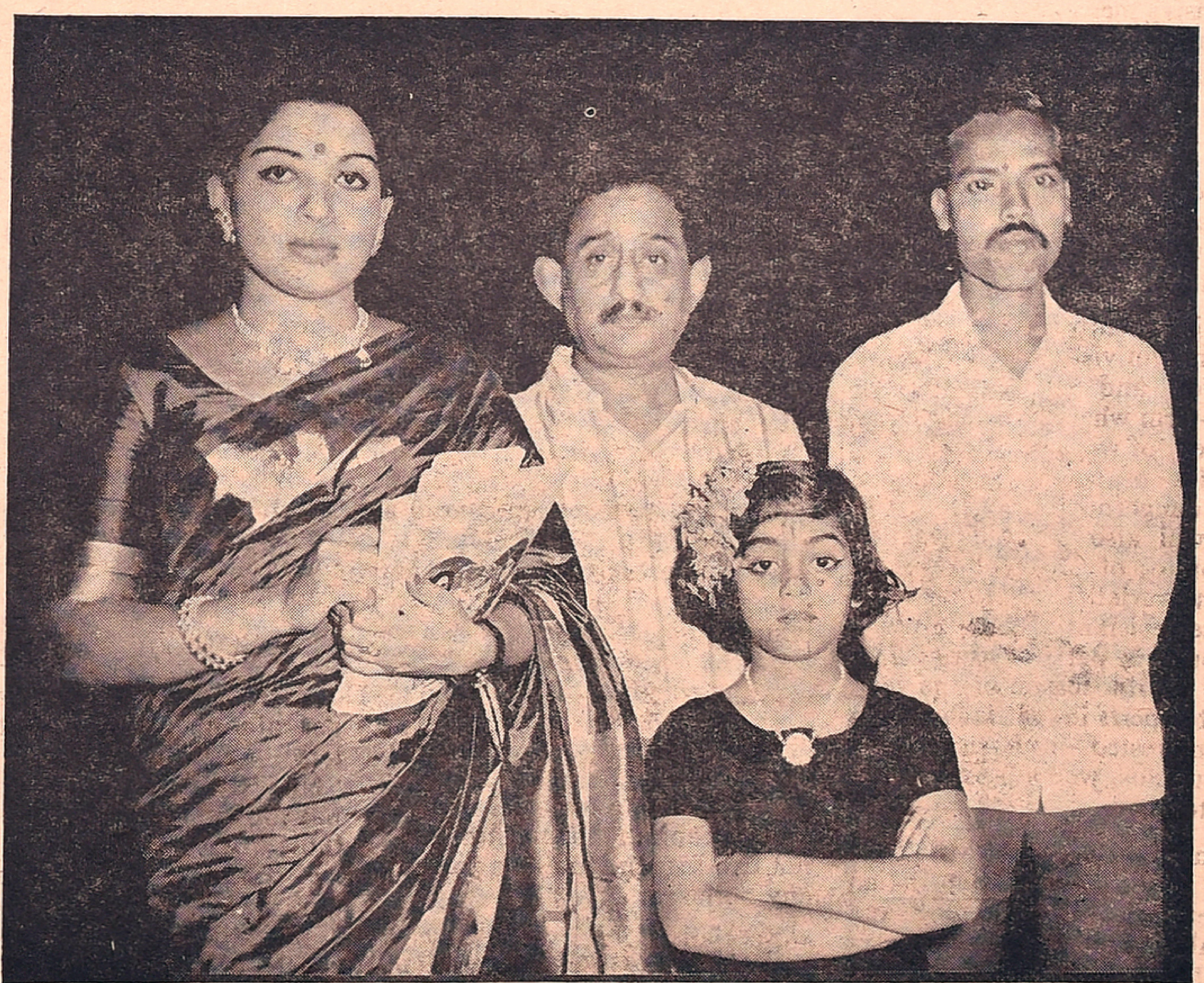


Censorship—Thus Far And No Further?

"My wife invariably creates a scene when she sees me in these scenes with a heroine; in your case she doesn't seem to care in the least!..."

The senior man commiserated with him and said: "Never mind. You are so young. Follow my advice. Next time you go to her house don't walk straight in and see her secretary. As soon as you enter the gate turn to the left go round the house and knock softly three times on the second door at the rear. Have with you fifty rupees in cash which you should leave with some fruits by her bedside table. "Good luck!" The youth did as he was told and within a few moments of his knocking at the door Pushpamalli herself let him into her bedroom. On seeing the fifty rupees and the fruits that he had placed on the table she gave him a warm embrace, receieed him fully and made him feel so happy! Although this rapturous experience was something new to the youth he had the wits at the same time to ask all those questions he required to write up the interview.

When the senior met him again a week later and enquired whether he had made any progress, the youth touched his feet and thanked him for the advice that had proved so fruitful. "I hope," said the senior "that the interview alone was fruitful, because if Pushpamalli bears fruit she may foist it on you and then you'll have a live-problem on your hands." "There is no risk of that" said the cautious youth 'because in addition to the fifty rupees and the fruits I took along with me what the benevolent Sarkar offers us at a subsidised rate of a mere fifteen paise for three." The senior had no hesitation in predicting for the wise youth a bright future as a film journalist.



Vishnu with Cine star Jayalalitha. Also in the picture are V. M. Kalainayakam, a journalist and Vyjayanthi (of Vidyodaya girls' school) who did drawings for a cover page of Free India in 1972.

From page 3

Even Small Incidents

disastrous consequences a party has to face if it cannot close its ranks, especially when he cites the instance of Sardar Rarewala leaving Congress on the eve of 1969 elections, will provide enough material to any statesman for taking precautions at the time of elections. Intra-party squabbles ultimately ruin the party. It is better to have a cohesive party and be in the opposition rather than face the misfortune of being in power with a divided House. His insistence on parties providing a clear-cut ideological content is sound. In the absence of such a clear-cut ideological content, people get confused and reflect their confusion in indiscriminate voting, which brings about political instability.

What an amount of constant vigilance even in unimportant details a Governor has to exercise is illustrated by some instances cited by Dr. Pavate. A Deputy Minister in the cabinet of Sardar Gill had to resign as he was charged by students with using physical force. Sardar Gill approached Dr. Pavate several times with a request to re-appoint the removed Deputy Minister. In spite of refusal by Dr. Pavate, he arranged after about 6 months an appointment through the Secretary of Dr. Pavate for administering a fresh oath of office to the removed Deputy Minister. The party came to Government House with a large number of visitors and press correspondents. Dr. Pavate was greatly annoyed with his Secretary for having arranged the appointment without his approval. Dr. Pavate, however, refused to play the game. He explained to the Chief Minister, Mr. Gill, that in view of his promise to the House that he would take action against the erring Deputy Minister, it was morally wrong on his part to re-appoint him quietly after a few months. Luckily Sardar Gill took the refusal in good spirit.

UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE

On another occasion, when the controversy about the right of the Governor to prorogue the House to issue an ordinance laying down procedure for transacting official business under article 213 invoking article 209 and summoning the Assembly after a few days was at its peak, an unfortunate mistake by the Private Secretary of Dr. Pavate added fuel to the fire.

The two Punjab Appropriation Bills were passed by the Assembly which continued the sitting after the Speaker had ruled that the ordinance was promulgated when both Houses were in session and was therefore unconstitutional and void and adjourned the House again. They had to be assented to by the Governor after they were certified by the Speaker. As the Speaker was not in the Chair and had adjourned the House illegally in spite of the Ordinance, the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, had certified them. This had also become a bone of contention.

When the controversy was so intense and widespread another misfortune overtook the office of the Governor. Four copies of each of the Bills, two certified by the Deputy Speaker and two uncertified by him, were submitted for signature of Dr Pavate. He signed all the four thinking two were meant for office record. His Secretary who was quite a competent officer but had not enough experience struck of Dr. Pavate's signature on the two copies which were not certified by the Deputy Speaker, put his initials and sent all the four to the office of the Legal Remembrancer.

An officer in the office of the Legal Remembrancer who belonged to the Akali Dal took a copy of the Bill, which did not bear the signature of the Deputy Speaker and got photostats made of it. These were liberally distributed to all important newspapers several of which reproduced them probably with a view to discredit. The opposition went to the extent of accusing Dr. Pavate that he had assented to the Bill before it had been passed by both the Houses. Dr. Pavate as a Governor could not enter into a controversy in the newspapers and had to swallow the bitter bill as best as he could. Even a man of the standards of Sardar Gurnam-Singh, though he told Dr. Pavate that it was wrong on the part of the officer concerned to give publicity to such a lapse on the part of Dr. Pavate's Secretary, does not seem to have expressed the view in newspapers. Those incidents show what deep insight Dr. Pavate has exhibited in studying the incidents and how in an inimitable way he has cautioned future administrators to be particular about details and not be neglect even a minor point. These small incidents sometimes create insurmountable difficulties I must congratulate him for going into such fine details.

Policy questions Dr. Pavate did not touch. Questions of administrative efficiency he handled with dexterity and insight. His contribution in accelerating the pace of green revolution will always be remembered by a grateful people. When heavy clouds tried to dim the vision when confusion tried to overtake criticism and tried to dull the mind, Dr. Pavate spoke with enough material and fought against weaknesses. This book I have no doubt will provide guidance to honest men and generate confidence in them to face the wiles of murky politics.

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AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN ARTS

That art is the best language to communicate ideas from one people to another was proved once again by the Russian Language Students of Madras on May 8 when they presented a variety programme of Russian music, poetry recitation and presentation of scenes from some famous Russian plays.

The programme, which was in the Russian language, was arranged in the House of Soviet Culture, Madras. The participants, all Indians, have succeeded in keeping the undivided attention of the packed audience in spite of the language barrier. Whether it was poetry recitation, delivery of dialogues in plays or singing of songs, the students were very fluent, thanks to the excellent coaching.

Srinivasan, Krishnamurthy and R. Jayaprakash recited some famous poems. The first one, 'Lenin,' told about the work done by Lenin for the international working-class movement, the second poem "Russia" underlined the duty of man towards his country and the third "A Woman is Bathing in the Stream" described the tranquility that the poet sees everywhere.

The organisers had rightly chosen some humorous situation from two plays, one from "The Inspector General", N. V. Gogol's masterpiece, and the other from "The Surgery" by A. P. Checkhov, both of which drew peals of laughter from audience. S. Selvatharasu, S. Ramanathan, B. Radha and Sharmila Bhowmick participated in the first play and Sri Hari and Devarajan in the second. M. Jesudoss narrated a humorous story.

The most impressive part of the programme was the musical numbers, both solo and group. Among the solo numbers, "The Volga Flows" sung by A. Prasuna was melodious and truly reflected the mood of the song. Her rendering of the song "Na kurgane," meaning "on the Burial Mound" was also sweet.

The chorus by the Students' choir in which all the Russian language students participated was perhaps the highlight of the whole programme. They sang three songs in Russian language. The first and the last were love songs, and the second one was the popular Soviet folk song "The Globe". The third song sun by a group of girls was so enchanting that the audience demanded a repeat performance of the same. Mr. Pertsev of the House of Soviet Culture conducted the choir while Mrs. Sorokin of the Information Branch of the USSR Consulate General in Madras and Mr. Karpov of Soviet Consulate General lent excellent instrumental support.

—*K. M. Rangaswamy*

New Smoke and Fire Alarm

A photoelectric smoke and fire alarm that will detect the presence of as little as two to four per cent smoke accumulation will be ready for worldwide marketing before mid-year.

The INFORMER, as the new device is called, is the only battery operated alarm on the market. According to the manufactures, the INFORMER, is reliable. Reliability has been a problem with solid-state photoelectric detectors in the past.

The detector senses light obscuration between the sensor and a light source. A test button on the device insures that the unit is operational and sensitive to two to four per cent smoke accumulation.

The INFORMER is completely battery powered with three AA mercury batteries having a minimum life of two years. When smoke is detected, a piercing alarm goes off.

From page 7

Telemedicine...

cine transmissions would be as confidential as telephone conversations.

—They wanted to retain face-to-face contacat between physician and patient: Telemedicine allows two-way transmission of visual as well as oral communication.

The requirements for communications channels and the complexity and cost of the equipment, experts say, can be drastically reduced by the use of "slow-scan television."

Instead of conventional television pictures, still pictures on the TV screen follow each other in rapid sequence. This permits less expensive and smaller and lighter transmission and receiving equipment and would perhaps permit telemedicine equipment in a physician's office or home.

Such equipment may become portable so that, instead of carrying his familiar black bag, the physician of tomorrow may carry a little black box. It will allow him to plug his telemedicine equipment into any telephone. The box will unscramble the coded images sent from the distant telemedicine station through ordinary telephone lines. The physician will be equipped to provide talemedicine from any telephone anywhere.

That such transmissions are feasible has already been demonstrated. Slow-scan television is already being used for other than medical purposes.

The cost of satellite launchings is expected to decline drastically when the U. S. space shuttle becomes operative at the end of this decade. A network of 12 telemedicine stations in one country and a satellite for serving them may be no more expensive by that time than a few miles of a modern highway.

Now And Then

The American Medical Association has published figures comparing army rations in George Washington's time (1776) with those today. The "NEW YORK TIMES" writes that although the army diet now averages $2-64 a day and Washington's soldiers were fed on 11 cents, the latter's ration was much heavier with meat. The quantity of food now would cost as much as $3.

From page 2

ing countries dream for an end to adverse terms of trade and trade instead of aid," he said.

He believed that, since Iran's formula envisaged cooperation and trade rather than aid through concessional prices, it should and would be upheld by all those people who were hoping for a UN solution to their development problems.

A Moldavian Tale

How The Sons Found Their Father's Treasure

ONCE upon a time there lived a man who had three sons. He was a hard-working man, and never idle. He worked from dawn till dusk, tirelessly. He found time for everything.

His sons were tall young men, strong and handsome, but they did not like to work. While their father was busy out in the field or in his orchard, or at home, his sons lounged in the shade of a tree, chatting about this or that, or else went fishing in the River Dniester.

"Why don't you ever work? Why don't you help your father?" their neighbours asked them.

"Why should we?" the sons replied. "Father takes good care of us, he's able to do everything himself."

Year after year they lived in this manner. But the time came when the father grew old and weak and could no longer go on working the way he used to. The orchard by their house grew wild and neglected. The field no longer brought rich harvests and only weeds grew there. The sons saw, but did nothing.

"How can you sit all day long without doing anything, my good sons?" the father asked. "I worked when I was strong and now it is your turn"

"Time enough for work later," the sons answered.

The old man was bitter about his sons, he fell ill and took to his bed. After that the family became poverty-stricken. The orchard was overrun with weeds so tall that the house could not be seen.

One day the old man called his sons to his bedside, and said: "Well, my dear sons, my hour has come...how you'll manage to live without me, I do not know. You don't like work and you don't even know how to work..."

Their hearts contracted, and they began weeping: "Won't you tell us, father, what we should do, won't you give us your last counsel, "the eldest brother pleaded.

"Very well," his father replied "I am going to reveal a secret to you which up to now I have kept to myself. You all know that your late mother and I worked hard all our lives. Over the long years of work we managed to save and put by a little nest egg—a crock of gold. I buried the crock not far from the house, but I no longer remember the precise spot. So search for my treasure and you will not live in want."

The old man bade farewell to his sons and died. The sons buried their old father and mourned his passing. After a time the elder brother said: "Well, brothers, we have nothing to live on now, not even the wherewithal to buy a piece of bread. Remember what our father told us before he died? The time has come to seek that crock of gold."

The brothers picked up spades and began digging by the very house. They dug and dug but they could not find the crock of gold.

Then the middle brother said: "Brothers, if we go on digging the way we are doing now, we shall never find the treasure our father buried. Let us dig up all the land around our house."

The brothers agreed. They picked up their spades again, dug up the soil, but still could not find the crock of gold.

"I suggest," the youngest brother said, "that we go over it all once again, digging deeper. Who knows, father might have hidden the crock of gold very deep."

His brothers agreed. They so wanted to find that crock of gold! The eldest brother dug and dug and suddenly his spade struck something big and hard. His heart beat wildly, he was overjoyed and he called to his brothers. "Quick, come here, I've found father's treasure!"

The middle and the youngest brothers came running to help their elder brothers. They worked very hard, and finally they were able to lift the object out—it was not the crock of gold, though, but a heavy stone.

They were terribly disappointed and asked one another: "What are we to do with this stone? We can't leave it here—let's carry it away beyond this plot of land." And they did just that: they took the stone away, and they started digging once again. They worked hard the whole day long, forgetting to eat or rest. They dug up the plot once again. The soil became soft and light, but they did not find the crock of gold, however hard they dug.

"Well," said the eldest brother, "now that we've dug our land good and proper, we can't leave it just like that. Why don't we plant grape vines?"

"A good idea!" his brothers exclaimed. "At least the work will not be wasted."

They planted grape vines and they looked after them well. Before long they had a beautiful vineyard. The vines were heavy with clusters of grapes gleaming like gold in the sun. The brothers gathered a rich harvest. They kept as much as they needed and the rest they sold, receiving lots of money.

The eldest brother said: "This is the crock of gold, my brother, to which father referred before his death. Our labours have not been in vain: by digging our land we have found a precious treasure."

"You are right," the middle brother said. "We shall toil on our land every year, and in return it will give us gold."

Ever since the brothers have worked diligently and every autumn they find the crock of gold of which their father spoke.

Appalling Indictment

Seventy-two-year-old Englishman Cyril Swann was recently sent to prison for life for setting fire to a pile of garbage in a public place. He did it deliberately to attract attention to his plight: he had no place to go and hospitals and other institutions all refused to look after him. Passing sentence, Judge Robert Lymbery said: "It is an appallang indictment of present-day society that we cannot offer some haven for a 72 year-old man, a human being." The judge saw no alternative other than to give Swann free lodging in prison.

* * *

Stilting It

Gilles Dasse' and Christian Darrieumerlou of Landes Department (France) have set out from Paris to Brussels on stilts, a traditional means of communication in their swampy area. They want to repeat the sports feat performed eighty years ago by their countryman Antoine Dugrand. It is recalled in this connection that the world stilt-walking record was set in 1891 by one Sylvain Dornan: he walked on stilts from Paris to Moscow, covering a distance of 2,945 kilometres. Dasses and Darrieumerlou have decided to walk at a speed of eight kilometres an hour. Stilt-walking, they say, saves man 30 per cent of his muscular energy.

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& Aruna Irani.
Regale & Rejoice with L.P's' Music
it's a CINE ASSOCIATES RELEASE.
Crow

From page 1

Consumer Protection...

second is adulteration. The third is deliberate underweighment of goods All the three of them are prevalent all over the country all the time.

The problem of increasing prices is naturally the most important one, and it has affected the economy during the last two years in a manner that should cause grave concern to the Government and the people alike

In a recent article, the London Economist has pointed out a historical fact that in every country where inflation has gone beyond 20 per cent in a short period, democracy has gone by the board and either a blind Leftism or a military dictatorship has taken its place. The article gives examples of many countries specially from Latin America, to prove this point.

Looking at Maharashtra and Gujarat one feels apprehensive that democratic processes of protest are giving way to more violent and dramatic forms which go contrary to the basic principles of democracy. In checking rising prices, therefore, the consumer and the Government have to act as partners.

I do not believe in any form of non-democratic action. In the long run, such action reacts unfavourably on the body politic and substitutes force for argument and violence for persuasion.

CONSUMER COUNCILS

It is, therefore, the duty of the Government to encourage the formation of Consumer Councils in every part of India and to help them to meet the challenge posed by malpractice in every sphere. From the point of view of the Government, these organisations. which should be non-political in character, can bring to the notice of the authorities such defects as come to their notice.

It goes without saying that complaints presented by consumers as a whole will receive greater attention than isolated ones sent to an authority here and there Consumer organisations should be formed through which complaints should be voiced. This method will also prevent frivolous complaints from being sent up to the authorities.

The Government should also publicise through Consumer Council the laws which are already available for the consumer for his production, such as those relating to drugs for instance. One point, however, has to be specially emphasised in the matter of Government response to complaints from Consumer Councils. This is the need for quick action on the part of the Government.

If the consumer is driven from pillar to post and each authority tries to pass it on to some one else on technical grounds of jurisdiction and the like, then the complaints made by the Council become practically infructuous. The Government should therefore, create a cell specially for the purpose of receiving complaints, and processing action on representations made through Consumer Councils.

Unless this is done, the Government's willingness and anxiety to support these Councils and treat them seriously will not be believed by the people. In this context the appointment of a special Minister in the U. K. for consumer protection is both relevant and significant.

RIGHT TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS

On the part of the people, it is necessary to emphasise the need for organisation. Unless they join as a large group, vague, unspecified dissatisfactsons with the status quo lead nowhere. These Councils should be organised in every locality which represents a marketing area.

The great danger here is to indulge in grandiose thinking and plans, and follow the routine national pattern and start at the top with an All-India Council, with provincial branches, district branches, regional branbhes and the like; which looks like a neat pyramidal structure on paper but which is deleterious to the effective functioning of these bodies.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Action to protect the consumer has to be taken at local levels There are different problems in different areas. These Councils should, therefore, be severely restricted in size and area of operation and should have complete freedom of operation and not fall into a so called All India pattern which is of no practical use or importance

The work should begin and continue at the level of grassroots. No rules are necessary to make their constitution or function uniform. What is best administered is best.

If the initiative for starting these Councils does not come spontaneously from the people themselves but is straight-jacketed into All-India patterns, then their usefulness will be stiffled and their importance as an economic force will diminish.

The Consumer Councils, if they are to be successful should be completely non-political and should also consist largely of women. The success with which this type of Council has operated in Bombay is a conspicuous illustration of the point that I have just made.

In conclusion, I would like to repeat that there should be several Councils, each working in its own way, spread all over India, and that consumer portection is an effort in which the Government and the people shoulp act as partners and not in opposition to each other as it were.

(Courtesy: Kurukshetra)

Reading Three Times As Fast

By OLEG KUZNETSOV, M. Sc. (Engineering)

A New Soviet method of speed reading, based on a theoretical foundation and tested experimentally, opens up another possibility of assimilating a greater amount of information.

In from six to eight weeks, by taking two lessons a week, anyone can learn to read much faster such is the principal conclusion which can be drawn now after many years of investigation conducted by the Kvant-70 group in the Soviet Union. Its members were people of different ages and occupations All of them now read on the average, three times faster than before. In many cases their retention of what they read has improved. And the acquired habits are lasting also. Evidence of this was provided by control tests conducted a year after the training period.

But an objection may be raised: why should man try to read at a speed that is more suitable for an electronic computer? The point is that scientists and engineers must keep abreast of developments in their respective fields But a chemist today would have to read 200 articles daily all the year round if he wanted to keep track of all the current information in his field. He cannot cope with even one-tenth of this amount. The same holds good in other fields.

Every year nearly 60 million pages of scientific and technical literature are launhed upon the world. The volume of scientific information has been expanding at the rate of three per cent annually. It is hoped that the "electronic Brain" will help, but obviously it cannot creatively process what it memorises.

Meanwhile, the present reading speed remains what it was 50 and even 500 years ago. Between 250 and 300 words a minute Even a modest increase —threefold to start with—would greatly benefit many scientists and engineers.

IMPRESSIVE

Anybody reads faster to himself than aloud. But everyone reads at his own speed: one at 200 words a minute, another at 400. The difference, at first glance, is impressive. At least quantitatively. But does it conceal any qualitative distinctions between people, say, distinctions conditioned by different natural gifts? It is not so. Neither is it merely a matter of inner potentials (they are to be found in each individual) It lies in the ability to utilise these potentials. This ability can be developed by everyone.

The man who possesses the "phenomenal gift" of speed reading simple uses every "halt" more effectively than the man without this. gift. In other words, he fixes his eyes at a particular point on the line less frequently: each time be normally grasps more words than others. Good peripheral vision helps him to do so. But everyone can develop this and develop it to such an extent that once he looks at the line he will have it impressed on his mind. This has been demonstrated by the Kvant-70 group.

Using special tables with numbers ranging from 1 to 25, which were presented chaotically, but organised in lines, we learned to find these numbers one after another in their natural sequence in a maximum of 25 seconds. Next we proceeded to ordinary texts. With a pencil, we drew a vertical line down the middle of a newspaper column. We moved our eyes only from the top to the bottom of this line.

NO LONGER A MONOPOLY

But perhaps such a rate of reading leaves no trace in the mind? Apprehensions of this kind proved to be groundless, tests showed that assimilation remains as high as it is when the reading is done in the old way, Not only that. On many occasions what is read is absorbed better and the overall capacity for work and consequently, the productivity of intellectual effort go up.

Finally, the last contention of the sceptics, They say it is a pity to give up the habit of speaking the text to oneself or even out loud. Without this, they say, there is no "hearing" the phrases, whose aural as ect, more often than not, forms on organic part of the writer's style.

Well, that seems like a reasonable objection. But we recommend our technique, above all, to those who are swamped in a sea of scientific and technical information. Incidentally, the new method will never make anyone lose the skills of articulation or recitation—these can always be resorted to when it is desirable to achieve a better grasp of the melody of poetry or the intonations of prose.

Be that as it may, the ability to read phenomenally fast is no longer the "monopoly" of outstanding individuals.

TV Episode

Television commercials in which Clement Freud, grandson of the famous psychoanalyst, advertises dog food were banished from the air until after the British general election. Freud was a Liberal Party candidate in the election, and electoral laws strictly limit TV appearances for candidates even if they only advertise dog food.

From first cover

Hindi-speaking peasants of Hissar Valley

Some Tajik peasants of the Hissar Valley in the USSR, still use in their homes an Indian dialect.

According to legend one of their ancestors, prayed to the sun to descend and fry the meat for him. The sun readily accepted the prayer and thus the food was cooked. That was the place of their origin.

It appears from the use of such typically Rajasthani words, as "Mundo" (son) and "Fatak" (Child) that their fore-fathers came, in all probability, from Rajasthan or the adjacent region of Haryana. But their dialect has also acquired a number of Punjabi words. For example, they use the word "Pai" for brother which is a variant of Hindi "Bhai." Similarly, for younger sister they use the word "Bhain" which is the same as in Punjabi (for sister, elder or younger). But for elder sister they have a separate word Ji. In any case, their dialect needs a deeper study by specialists in the field.

A really interesting book

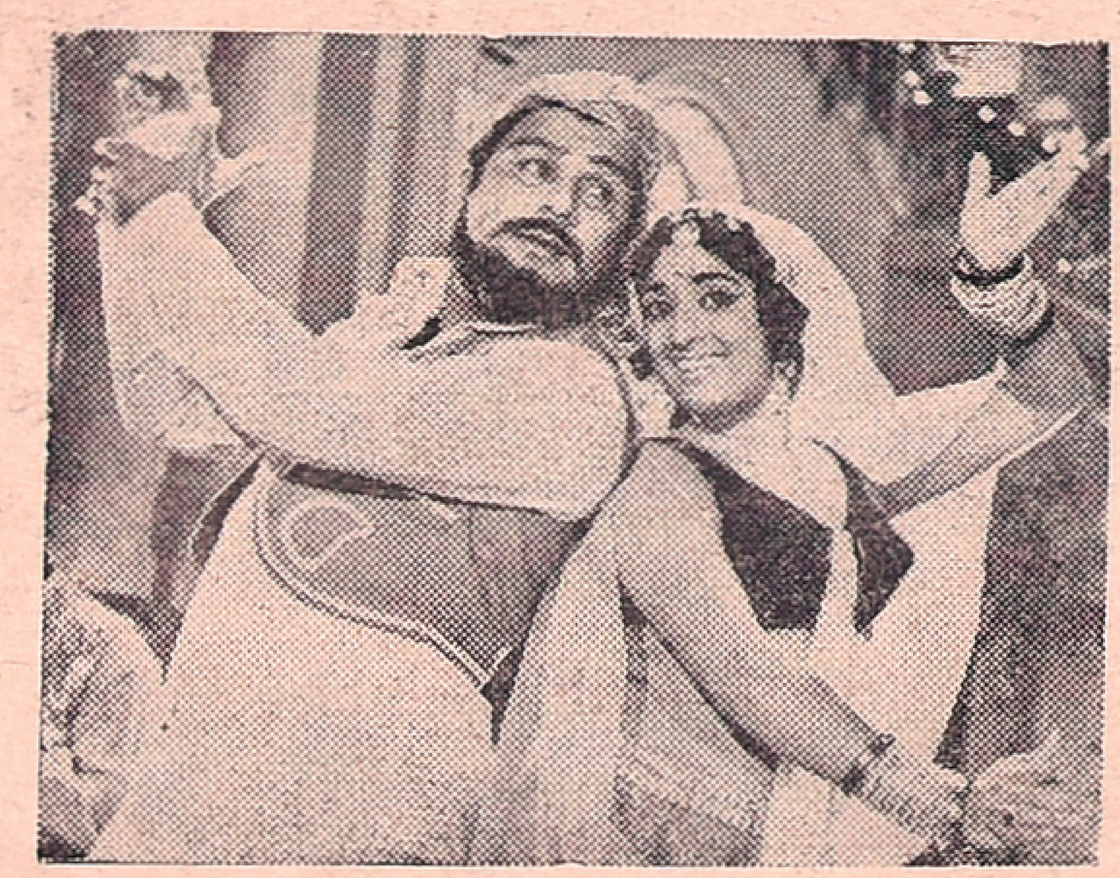
At the contest for the best forester held during the jamboree, one had to display good knowledge and often wit to reply to numerous difficult questions.

(Story on Second cover)

Vivacious Jaikumari striking an attractive dance pose in one of her recent pictures.

What is the problem Vanisri and "Major" Sundararajan are trying to solve? will be known when "Rojavin Raja" is released.

FILM NEWS IN PICTURES



Rajkokila and Jaisanker doing a Punjabi dance piece in "Enga Pattan Sothu" produced and directed by Karnan

Manjula in the Tamil picture "Rajanagam" expected to be released shortly.

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